THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (DARE) has developed a number of improved varieties of groundnut, such as Kaushal, Chitra, GG-2, GG-11, TG-17, Kisan, KRG-1, Co-2, etc. in the recent years.

(b) and (c) Large quantities of quality seed are being supplied to the agriculturists by the National Seeds Corporation, State Seed Multiplication Agencies, State Agricultural Universities and othere Institutions. The Govt, of India is stressing the importance of the supply of quality seed of newly developed varieties of oilseeds including groundnut and as such, has earmarked one third of the total outlay under the National Oilseeds Development Project Tor supply of quality seed (including input kits) of improved varieties.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects

443. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister -has decided to visit various states accompanied by some of his cabinet colleagues and secretaries for on the spot clearance of irrigation projects and financial assistance; and

(b) if so, whether the issues of financial assistance and , clearance of projects like Telugu Ganga, Polavaram, second stage of Sri Rama sagar project and Ichampalli are likely to be taken up on Prime Minister's visit to Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Long-Term Scheme for production of pulses

444. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO :
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any long-term scheme has been formulated by Government for increasing the pro duction of pulses in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the pulses development scheme and the allocation of funds for programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. From 1986-87, Government of India have sanctioned a Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development project during the Seventh Plan with the following components:—

1. Distribution of seed minikits of latest short duration improved varieties of different pulses.

2. Organising block demonstra tion to educate the farmers about . the production technology.

3. Laying out of adaptive trials of promising varieties on farmers fields.

4. Biological control of pod borers through release of parasites etc.

5. Training of extension workers to educate them in organising the development programme of pulses.

6. Strengthening of Rhizobium culture labs to enable them to manufacture large quantity of culture for distribution.